THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALFJRO): (a) The ceiling prices of Ranitidine formulations were fixed on 17.3.1988 on the basis of bulk drug weighted average import price of Rs. 4396/-Kg.

(b) and (c) BICP are in the process of conducting the Cost-cum-Technical Study of indigenously produced Ranitidine.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Turnover criteria for price control of drugs

450. SHRI H. HANUMAN THAPPA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTIIIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that turnover criteria is being applied to identify drugs for price control with reference to 1989-90 as the base year, mainly to omit newer drugs and drugs of multinationals like Cefotaxim, Fortum etc. from price control;

(b) whether it is a fact that the purpose of review of 1987 policy was to rectify ommissions of the Kelkar Committee that instead more ommissions have been committed;

(c) who is responsible for such a state of affairs and with what motives; and

(d) what steps have been taken to investigate earlier scandal as well as the present one?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The reasons for review have been mentioned in the Background Note placed on the Table of the House on 12.8.92 and which was discussed on 18th, 19th and 23rd August, 1992.

Request for the revision of bulk drug prices

451. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY; Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that requests for revision in prices of bulk drugs and the representations against the prices fixed are pending for years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only those requests are considered where the concerned producers agree to pay in cash and kind to the concerned or their relatives;

(c) what is the datewise receipt and disposal of requests for the past two years and why no system was evolved; and

(d) what steps have been taken to investigate the whole matter and fix responsibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). The prices of indigenously produced bulk drugs are fixed/revised from time to time on the basis of cost-cum-technical studies conducted by the BICP. This involves collection of necessary information from the various manufacturers, verification by the visit to the plants located in various parts of the country and analysis of the data from technical, costing and economic angles. This detailed study is time consuming and in some cases there is delay by the manufacturers in furnishing the requisite information to the BICP.

Cost of Urea and natural gas

452. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the cost of natural gas that is being charged from urea fertilizer plants;